COMIC SHOP NEWS
311
CATWOMAN
Catwoman ™&©1993 DC Comics, ARR.

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Exploring a New Frontier

In the past couple of years, Marvel UK has made its presence known to Marvel fans, introducing such popular titles as ***Death's Head II, Wild Thing,*** and ***Mys-TECH Wars.*** All of these titles have firmly fit into the Marvel Universe, often guest-starring popular stateside Marvel heroes such as Cable and Wolverine.

"But what of the visions of some of Britain's most talented creators that didn't quite fit into Marvel UK's new Universe—concepts that, though throbbing with creative energy and intrigue, have had to be held back?" asks Fiona Moscatelli, Marvel UK's Promotions Manager.

To find a home for these concepts that didn't fit into the standard superhero milieu, Marvel UK has created a new imprint, Frontier. The Frontier titles will not fit into the standard Marvel Universe superhero format; instead they'll offer a home for more experimental works of science fiction, fantasy, and dark horror, hoping to appeal to the same sort of sophisticated readership that enjoys DC's Vertigo imprint (many of the Vertigo titles also feature the work of prominent British comics creators).

Marvel UK's Frontier imprint debuts in July with four titles. ***Children of the Voyager,*** a four-issue limited series by Nick Abadzis and Paul Johnson, kicks off the line. The book follows a lonely, drifting immortal as he wanders the earth. At important points in his experience on Earth, he creates his "children" (replicants with a human life span), who continue their lives, offering him a chance to, in effect, take two roads at once (who said Robert Frost had all the answers?). Once the "children" die, the immortal reabsorbs their essences, learning all that they experienced. His hope is that he will eventually find a way to escape this Earthly prison—and he believes that the secrets he needs might be contained by the one "child" who refuses to return. ***Children of the Voyager #1,*** a $2.95 comic scheduled for July 8th release, will feature an embossed glow-in-the-dark cover.

Immortalis is a four-issue series that also chronicles the experiences of an immortal—although he'd certainly be willing to give up that dubious honor if he could just regain his soul beforehand. Mortigan goth lost his soul to a stranger in the Dark Ages, and he has wandered the Earth in search of his essence ever since then. His travels have led him to encounter other immortal creatures—and have made him aware of an ominous force that is destroying these immortals one by one. Written by Nick Vince and illustrated by Mark Buckingham, ***Immortalis #1*** will feature a foil-enhanced cover; look for the $2.95 comic on July 8th.

Bloodseed, a four-issue limited series produced by Paul Neary, Liam Sharp, and Cam Smith, offers a new take on classic sword and sorcery. Bloodseed is a sword-wielding hero who must use any means necessary to traverse a brutal, deadly savage land that is the home to every sort of monster and demon imaginable. His mission? His body carries a unique and vital genetic message, and his only motivation is to deliver that message. All four issues of ***Bloodseed*** will feature gold ink enhanced covers; ***Bloodseed #1,*** a $1.95 comic, is scheduled for July 22nd release.

The final Frontiers title for July is ***Dances With Demons,*** a four-issue miniseries that stars a young American Indian boy, James Owl, who is tormented by nightmares that soon become reality. Owl is the heir to the mystic powers of his Native American ancestors—but there's a malevolent spirit who covets his powers, and will stop at nothing to gain them. ***Dances With Demons*** is written by Simon Jowett and illustrated by Charlie Adlard; the $2.95 premiere issue features a foil-embossed front cover. Look for it on July 29th.

Marvel UK's Frontier imprint will continue to offer a home to sophisticated series that don't fit into the standard Marvel UK superhero universe; like Marvel's Epic and DC's Vertigo imprint, the books will appeal most strongly to older, more sophisticated readers.

by KIM B. PEARSON

Catwoman Ventures Into the Knight-Side

Is the new ***Catwoman*** series a part of the hot new "Knightfall" series running through the Batman books this summer? Not exactly—but then again, perhaps it is...

While ***Catwoman*** will not carry a "Knightfall" imprint on the cover, nor will it be numbered as a part of the series, it will nevertheless tie in with events going on in that storyline.

In the new ***Catwoman*** series, the anti-heroine finds herself working both with and against Bane, who menaces Batman throughout "Knightfall." While Catwoman is apparently an ally of Bane as her series begins, their relationship soon takes a turn for the worse; she begins to look for an opportunity to avenge herself against Bane... but he has similar plans for punishing Catwoman's treason.

Catwoman is an ongoing series written by Jo Duffy and illustrated by Jim Balent and Dick Giordano. ***Catwoman #1*** is scheduled for July 8th release; ***Catwoman #2,*** in which the relationship between Catwoman and Bane rapidly deteriorates, is slated to hit comic shops on August 5th—just two scant weeks before the release of the landmark ***Batman #500.***

by CLIFF BIGGERS

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Mean Green Fighting Machines

If you've ever read an issue of Erik Larsen's ***Savage Dragon,*** then you know that there are few heroes out there who are more formidable than this green-finned wonder. This July, though, he crosses paths with a trio of similarly-hued heroes who can match him hit for hit: the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles!

The crossover of the Turtles and the Dragon will occur in two phases. Phase One, which begins in July, brings the Turtles to the pages of ***Savage Dragon #2,*** written and illustrated by Erik Larsen. Phase Two, which will take place later this year (the specific month hasn't been determined yet) will co-star the Savage Dragon in a crossover special published by Mirage and written and illustrated by Michael Dooney.

"Erik and I have known each other for ages," Dooney said, "and we've talked about doing 'something' for quite a while. I'm sure that if it wasn't for the fact that he ran off and became a superstar, we would have gotten together a lot sooner! I'm really excited that we are going to be doing this project together. The Mirage book will have a Larsen/Dooney cover and I'll be writing and penciling the story. Fingers crossed, if time and schedules allow, Erik will be inking the Dragon! For me, that would be the icing on the cake."

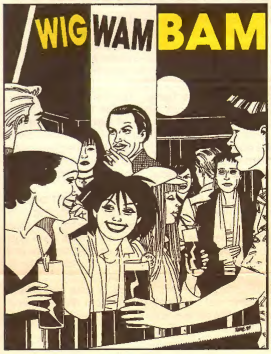
As if the TMNT/Dragon crossover isn't enough, ***Savage Dragon #2*** will have additional elements that should attract fan attention. First off, the book will introduce Dart, a new member of Erik Larsen's latest creation, the Freak Force. Next, this issue features a Star solo adventure. And finally, the flipside of the book will feature a full color preview of ***Vanguard,*** the new series by Gary Carlson, Tomm Coker, and Jim Sinclair! With this many goodies, there's no way everything could be crammed in a normal-sized issue, so Image is expanding ***Savage Dragon #2*** to 48 pages in length. The $2.95 comic is scheduled for July release.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

311
COMICS SHOP NEWS
6 • 8 • 93
From Your Friendly Neighborhood Comics Outlet
New York's #1 Comic Book Store
Printed on 100% Recycled Newsprint

Fantagraphics Wigs Out

"Wig Wam Bam," *Jaime Hernandez'* post-punk story serialized in ***Love and Rockets #s 52-59,*** has become a fan-favorite because it offers such an incisive look at a culture that intrigues almost everyone who reads the series. Since back issues of Love and Rockets are sometimes hard to find, Fantagraphics is collecting the entire story into a 128-page graphic novel entitled (what else?) ***Wig Wam Bam.*** This graphic novel brings readers up to date on all of Jaime's extensive cast of characters, including Ray and Danita, Doyle, Daffy, Penny Century, Zero, Izzy, Maggie, and Hopey. Additionally, Fantagraphics is adding an epilogue, "Gonna Make You My Man," that originally appeared in ***Love & Rockets #42.*** The July release will be made available as a $12.95 trade paperback, a $35 hardcover, and a $39.95 signed and numbered hardcover. If you're interested in the hardcover or the limited edition, be sure to let the friendly folks at your local comic shop know—and tell 'em you heard about it in ***CSN***...



Tracing the Bloodlines

For those of you who are keeping a list of the new characters appearing in DC's Bloodlines annuals, here's the checklist for June and early July. ***Green Lantern Annual #2,*** produced by *Jones, Byrd,* and *Davis,* introduces a new hero, Nightblade, who has the ability to throw any object with pinpoint accuracy; look for him to debut on June 17th. Decimator, a former cop who has gained heightened battle reflexes that supplement his arsenal, premieres in June 24th's ***Batman Annual #17*** courtesy of *Moench & Barreto.* Lionheart, a new British hero created by *Jones* and *Parobeck,* is introduced on July 1st in ***Justice League International Annual #3.*** And finally, ***Robin Annual #2,*** a July 8th release, introduces the new teenage hero Razorsharp in a story by *Dixon, Dwyer,* and *Garcia-Lopez.* Each of these 64-page annuals is priced at $2.50; all feature covers by hot newcomer *Christian Alamy.*

One Mad Mom

Nomad has faced a bizarre array of villains in his solo career—but even this versatile hero might have trouble figuring out just how he should defend himself against Bucky's mom, whose determined that she wants her baby back... even if it's over Nomad's dead body! She's undergone intensive training under the guidance of the Favor Banker, and now she's a very single-minded assassin whose hatred is focused on the man she blames for taking her child. Find out how this custody dispute is resolved in ***Nomad #17,*** a July 8th release that is produced by *Fabian Nicieza, Rick Mays,* and *Chris Ivy; S. Clarke Hawbaker* contributes the stunner cover for this issue.

Some Great Models On the Horizon

Horizon Hobbies is well known to comics fans for their superlative model kits; they've produced a whole bunch'a Marvel model kits as well as Terminator models, Batman models, Indiana Jones models... the list goes on and on. Well, Horizon isn't satisfied to sit on their backlist; they have some great model kits slated for release in the second half of '93, including some figures that fans may have given up hope of ever seeing again.

Horizon's Marvel Comics model kits will continue with Cyclops, Carnage, Cable, She-Hulk, Green Goblin, a new Spider-Man, a new Wolverine, and a stunning Ghost Rider figure that you'll have to see to believe. Terminator fans will find a new assortment of ***Terminator 2-Judgment Day*** figures slated for release, including Sara Connor and two different Hunter-Killer figures (as were seen in the film's futuristic scenes). There are three stunning DC Superhero model kits in the works: Joker, Robin, and Superman (Superman Classic, of course). Those of you who grew up with Aurora model kits will be most pleased to hear of Horizon's latest acquisition: they'll be producing Universal Movie Monster kits, including Frankenstein, the Wolfman, the Mummy, and the Creature From the Black Lagoon (and we're talking top-quality here; the Aurora models didn't have a tenth of the detail of these stunning figures). Some of these kits, such as Ghost Rider, Frankenstein, and the Creature From the Black Lagoon, should begin reaching comic shops in July.

Finally, Horizon has secured a license from the makers of ***Jurassic Park*** and Stan Winston Studios (who did the special effects for the film) to produce a series of dinosaur model kits based on designs done for the film. Most of the kits will be priced in the $45-$50 range—and believe us, when you see these kits, you'll consider them a bargain! The ***Jurassic Park*** dinosaur kits should also begin to appear in comic shops in July. As more specific release dates are set, ***CSN*** will tell you about them, of course...

First Encounters of the Skizz Kind

Earth isn't at all a bad place for an alien to make his home—if the alien in question is Kal-El or Norrin Radd. If he's an interpreter of the Tau-Ceti Imperium, abandoned here as the result of a technical breakdown, his life is a bit less heroic... and a lot more frightening. If you don't believe us, just ask Zhcchz—or, as he's more likely to be known here on Earth, Skizz.

Skizz, the creation of *Alan Moore* and *Jim Baikie,* is an alien whose experiences on Earth aren't quite as grand as the exploits of Superman and Silver Surfer. Skizz's ability to communicate with the natives of Birmingham, England, are extremely limited, which makes his experience even more frightening. ***Skizz: First Encounter,*** a three-issue limited series from Fleetway/Quality, reprints the original Skizz stories from the pages of 2000 A.D. This black-and-white miniseries paves the way for the full-color sequel that's tentatively scheduled for late '93 release. ***Skizz: First Encounter #1,*** a $1.95 comic, is scheduled for late May release.

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Ultra Cards For Ultraverse

Malibu is pulling out all the stops to make sure that fans are pleased with the new Ultraverse Comics imprint—and SkyBox is doing the same thing with their ***Malibu Ultraverse Trading Cards,*** which should be in comic shops in early August. According to *George White* of Skybox, "Ultraverse Comic Cards will be the first cards produced by SkyBox utilizing fluorescent inks, which really make the artwork 'pop' off the card. The artwork is great: in addition to original works by top Malibu talent like *Walt Simonson* and *Dave Gibbons* created exclusively for this card line, the series will also include original artwork by *Joe Jusko* (six cards) and *Barry Windsor-Smith* (two)."

The 100-card ***Malibu Ultraverse*** series will be divided into five subsets: Ultrahuman Heroes, Ultrahuman Villains, Origins, Culture, and Titles. Additionally, SkyBox is adding three levels of bonus cards: there are nine hand-painted UV-coated rookie cards; four foil-embossed "Ultimate Rookies" cards featuring characters who won't be making their appearances in Ultraverse titles until later this year; and two special Prime and Hardcase cards that will utilize a never-before-seen process that SkyBox is calling "Ultra Cards." The ***Malibu Ultraverse Trading Cards***, priced at $1.25 for an eight-card pack, should be in comic shops by the end of the first week in August.

Two Two Two Foils On One!

Sure, lots of books have featured foil covers—but how many books have featured two different foils on their front cover? That's what DC is adding to the cover of ***Flash #80*** to guarantee that fans don't miss the debut of new cover artists *Alan Davis* and *Mark Farmer*. ***Flash #80*** also introduces a new artistic team for the book's interiors as *Mike Wieringo* and *José Marzan, Jr.*, join forces with ***Flash*** writer *Mark Waid*. In this issue (which is a great starting point for new readers), Wally is trying to sort out his life in the aftermath of the Barry Allen saga—but he also has to deal with ex-girlfriend Frances Kane, who is also Magenta, the magnetic member of the New Titans. To punish Wally, Magenta is holding Keystone City hostage, and it's up to Wally to straighten things out. ***Flash #80,*** a $2.50 comic, is scheduled for July 15th release; DC is also producing a non-foil version of the comic for $1.25, for those of you who collect variant editions.

The Flash is also featured on DC's Flash Poster, which is fully painted by ***Batman: Shadow of the Bat*** cover artist *Brian Stelfreeze*. The $4.95 poster is slated for July 22nd release.

Dorman Is Dead Set For Deadworld

Dave Dorman, acclaimed illustrator of ***Aliens: Tribes*** and more comic book and trade paperback cover paintings than most people could imagine, has made the trek to Deadworld. ***Roadkill #1,*** the first issue in a new series of self-contained oneshots that fit into the continuity of the *Deadworld Universe*, features a Del Stone Jr. story of an uneasy alliance between zombies and humans. The comic features full-page illustrations by Dorman. The book is available in a standard $2.95 edition and a deluxe $5.95 trading card edition featuring a special card also illustrated by Dorman. Look for ***Roadkill #1*** in June.

GREEN LANTERN ANNUAL #2
COMING IN JUNE
BLOODLINES
OUTBREAK
New Heroes. New Villains. New Blood.

THE SAVAGE DRAGON™
It begins here, the birth of Image Comic's greatest super-team:
FREAK FORCE™
ERIK LARSEN
–Monthly, starting in June!
He's back...and he's pissed!
™
image

THOR ANNUAL #18

TO FLAME THE FANS

TALK ABOUT HOT! NOT ONLY DOES THIS ANNUAL FEATURE 64 PAGES OF SELF-CONTAINED STORIES AND THE DEBUT OF A BRAND NEW CHARACTER, BUT IT FEATURES AN EXCLUSIVE "ROOKIE" FLAME TRADING CARD. BY MARZ AND GRINDBERG.

MARVEL® COMICS

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN® *#380*

HEROES AT THE END OF THEIR ROPE!

THE WAR CONTINUES AS CARNAGE AND HIS UNHOLY ENTOURAGE PUT THE CHILLING FINAL STEP OF THEIR PLAN INTO PLAY. PART 11 OF THE 14 PART "MAXIMUM CARNAGE" CROSSOVER IS WRITTEN BY DAVID MICHELINIE AND DRAWN BY MARK BAGLEY AND RANDY EMBERLIN.

DARKHOLD #11

THE MASSACRE GETS MESSIER!

MODRED PUTS HIS NECK ON THE LINE TO SAVE GHOST RIDER FROM THE CRAZED BLADE. HAS HE LOST HIS HEAD? BLACK PARCHMENT COVER WITH GOLD METALLIC INK. BY COOPER, TYLER & DOWNS.

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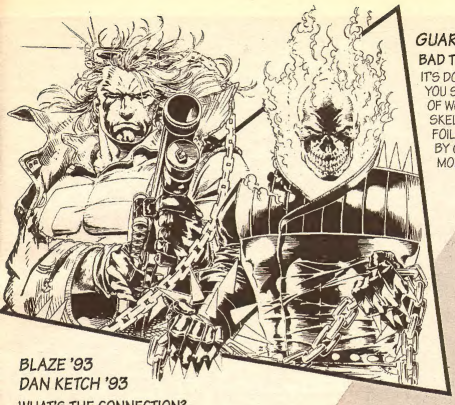


BLAZE '93
DAN KETCH '93

WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?

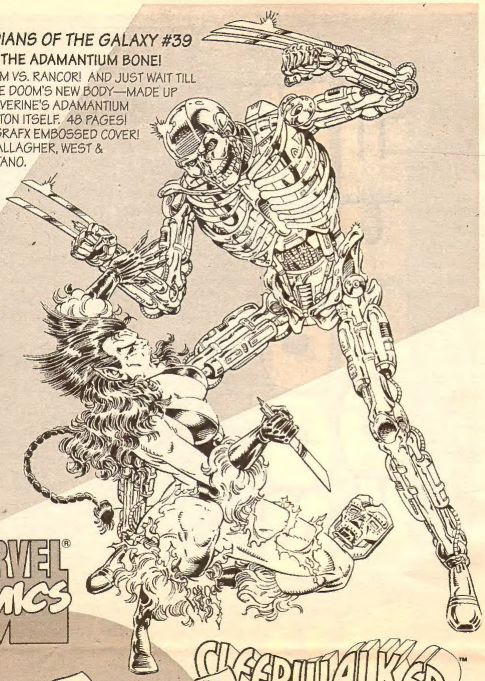
ROAD TO VENGEANCE: THE MISSING LINK

A SIX-PART CROSSOVER REVEALING THE TRUTH BEHIND MARVEL'S SUPERNATURAL ROAD WARRIOR. RUNNING THROUGH #41-43 AND SPIRITS OF VENGEANCE #14-16!

GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #39

BAD TO THE ADAMANTIUM BONE!

IT'S DOOM VS. RANCOR! AND JUST WAIT TILL YOU SEE DOOM'S NEW BODY—MADE UP OF WOLVERINE'S ADAMANTIUM SKELETON ITSELF. 48 PAGES! FOIL-GRAFX EMBOSSED COVER! BY GALLAGHER, WEST & MONTANO.

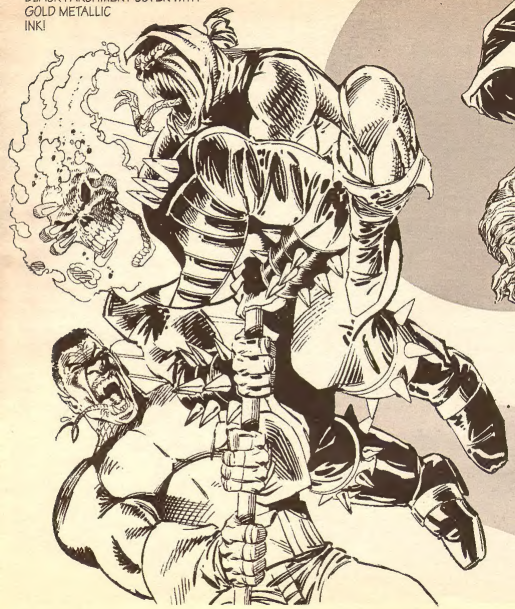


MARVEL COMICS

GHOST RIDER #40

DEATH STRIKES IN THE MIDNIGHT MASSACRE

HOWARD MACKIE, RON GARNEY AND CHRIS IVY BRING YOU PART TWO OF THE "MIDNIGHT MASSACRE." FRANK DRAKE TRIES TO HELP GHOST RIDER ESCAPE FROM THE POSSESSED "BLADE" AND IT MIGHT JUST COST HIM HIS LIFE. BLACK PARCHMENT COVER WITH GOLD METALLIC INK!



SLEEPWALKER™

SLEEPWALKER #27

THE ALIEN FROM RICK'S BRAIN VS. THE MINDSPAWN!

NO ONE KNOWS WHOSE SIDE SLEEPWALKER IS ON WHEN THE MINDSPAWN ATTACKS. FORTUNATELY, THAT'S NOT EVEN A QUESTION WHEN IT COMES TO THIS MONTH'S GUEST STARS—THE AVENGERS. BY BUDIANSKY AND KRANTZ.

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JUNE HOT PICKS!

by cliff biggers

The summer's here—and if you had any doubts about that, you don't need to refer to a calendar... you can just take a look at the comic book racks. Two major new universe rollouts kick off this month, and every publisher has major events taking place that should afford everyone some great reading choices. There are oodles o' books shipping this month, though, so it's more important than ever to know what you should be looking out for. Here's the top two dozen that no savvy reader will want to miss out on, so hang on to this list so that you know what sizzlers will be pushing the mercury a little bit higher.

BATMAN 498
DETECTIVE 684
SHOWCASE '93 7
SHOWCASE '93 8

If you've ever, ever had an interest in Batman, then you're going to hate yourself if you miss out on these books. "Knightfall" is reaching its climax, and its effects on Batman are going to be unforgettable. No, DC isn't killing off the Dark Knight (in spite of some rumors to the contrary)... but he isn't getting out of this battle royale with just a few cuts and bruises, either. Demand for early issues of this series is already sending prices soaring—and creating a boom market in ***Vengeance of Bane*** and ***Sword of Azrael.*** You know that, once ***Batman #500*** gets here and fans get a load of a truly New Look Batman, you'll be glad that you got in on the action early... *(DC, $1.25@)*

Showcase '93 #s 7 & ***8*** are likely to be the harder-to-find books in the "Knightfall" series (remember how quickly the Justice League America installments of "Doomsday" sold out?). This two-parter pits Batman against Two-Face (how appropriate!...), and these are actually numbered installments in the "Knightfall" storyline and not just peripheral tie-ins. *(DC, $1.95@)*

BATMAN/GRENDEL 1: DEVIL'S RIDDLE

Now here's a book that's been a long time coming... The creator is blameless insofar as this delay is concerned, though; it's all due to legalities and technicalities. That's irrelevant now, however: Matt Wagner's Batman and Grendel crossover story is ready for release at last. ***Devil's Riddle*** pits Batman against the most popular Grendel incarnation of all, Hunter Rose, in the heart of Gotham City. It's a complex, sophisticated, thinking fan's book that's moody, stylish... oh, and it's action-packed, of course. *(DC, $4.95)*

COMICS GREATEST WORLD — ARCADIA WEEK 1: X
COMICS GREATEST WORLD — ARCADIA WEEK 2: PIT BULLS

Dark Horse's superhero universe debuts with its first two titles; the combination of bargain prices, exciting action, big name creators, and an opportunity to get in on the ground floor of a new universe should make this series a surefire sellout. These two books kick off a sixteen-week run of superhero books that will lead into ongoing superhero titles this fall and winter—and fans will help decide which heroes get their own series!

X is Arcadia's mysterious hero; no one knows much about him, but he certainly is rather... shall we say vigorous?... in his enforcement of the law as he sees it. ***X*** is written by Jerry Prosser and illustrated by Chris Warner & Tim Bradstreet.

Pit Bulls is a superteam created by the government to serve as brutal, efficient killers; like the animals they're named after, they can spring into action almost instantly, and their results are dead certain. They were so good at their job, in fact, that the government cancelled the program over concerns that it might go awry—and that means that the Pit Bulls are now unleashed. ***Pit Bulls*** is written by Jerry Prosser and illustrated by Joe Phillips and John Dell.

In the next four months, Dark Horse will introduce a variety of superheroes and four distinctive settings in which these heroes operate. ***Comics Greatest World*** is distinctively different from any other superhero universe out there today... and it's bargain price should be inviting to budget-conscious fans. *(Dark Horse, $1@)*

DC UNIVERSE: TRINITY 1

DC goes intergalactic in this series that unites the Green Lantern Corps, LEGION '93, and the Darkstars in a battle against a trio of ancient deities who have plans to remake the universe... even if it means the end of humanity. This 48-page debut installment leads into issues of all three affected titles; by the time it's all over, fans will gain new insights into the relationships of these interstellar peacekeepers. Fan-fave Travis Charest supplies some of the art in ***Trinity #1***... just a helpful hint for those who want to collect the work of up and coming hot artists while it's still available at cover price. *(DC, $2.95)*

DEADPOOL 1

This is about the hottest X-Men spin-off we're likely to see until Gambit gets his own miniseries; Deadpool has become a real fan-favorite, so you can expect his solo miniseries to duplicate the success of ***Venom,*** the last villainous hit for Marvel. ***Deadpool*** manages to combine the mutant angle with a heaping helping of no-holds-barred action; it's the quintessential Marvel summertime hit. The foil-enhanced cover won't hurt things a bit, either. *(Marvel, $2.50)*

DEATHMATE PROLOGUE

If there's any event that can rival the popularity of the happenings in ***Batman,*** it's this crossover between two of the year's hottest companies... Image and Valiant. In this innovative series, the Image and Valiant Universes are melded into a strange amalgam that captures the feel of both—but not exactly. That's no accident; in fact, it's that strange feel that makes this series such a surefire hit; Image fans and Valiant fans will enjoy separating out the components of each Universe and seeing how the heroes interact. A confrontation between Solar and Void (of WildCATs) sets everything in motion in this exciting prequel written by Bob Layton; the art by Jim Lee and Rob Liefeld is going to have everyone oohing and aahing, though. *(Valiant/Image, $2.95)*

DOOM'S IV 1

Rob Liefeld is joined by artist Mark Pacella to introduce a new super-team. Exposure to a lethal virus transforms three survivors of a corporate expeditionary force into superheroes; led by a man named Grimm (hmmm...), they take on the Doom Corp Foundation. Of course, it's the sort of bold action that Rob Liefeld's reputation is built on—and Mark Pacella has been building quite a reputation of his own over a Marvel recently, so this should be another visually strong Image book. *(Image, $2.50)*

FROM HELL VOLUME 2

A while back, Alan Moore and Eddie Campbell began a work that truly deserves the appellation "graphic novel," and at long last, the story continues with this second volume. ***From Hell*** is a complex, intriguing look at the late Victorian era, the Jack the Ripper mystery, and the psychology of repression and insanity. This story pulls together diverse elements, including John Merrick (the Elephant Man), politics, literature, sociology... it's the sort of work that Moore is uniquely suited for. Since Campbell has gone on to become a cult favorite in his own right since ***From***

$100,000,000.00 BASEBALL CARD SET!

Now that we have your attention . . . the set really doesn't cost **that** much. But if you put together say 20 of baseball's highest paid players, that's about what their paychecks would total, give or take a few grand here and there. (And one of CARDTOONS' subsets shows it all!)

CARDTOONS BASEBALL PARODIES are the newest, funniest and most refreshing trading cards of the year! It's a combination of today's greatest stars with a sprinkling of yesterdays heroes. Each card is drawn by nationally recognized sports cartoonist Dayne Dudley. Adding to your enjoyment is Mike Sowell, author of "The Pitch That Killed" and widely acclaimed baseball expert with his wit and insight into the ridiculous side of baseball. It's simply pure fun! These supercharged little gems will keep you smiling card after card! There's **a lot** more too. Just look at these HOT subsets:

BIG BANG BUCKS

A knockout! A refreshing view of 20 of baseball's highest paid players. Each card has CARDTOONS "$tupid $tatz" on the back giving you another way to look at all that dough! This rare, ultra quality, randomly inserted subset is a must to own- foil embossed, stamped, and consecutively numbered!

POLITICS IN BASEBALL

Absolutely the most outrageous comedy you've ever seen! Nationally syndicated political cartoonist, Dave Simpson, really hits the nail on the head with his views on the state of the game today! Randomly inserted.

SPECTRA CARD SUBSET

The funniest, super high quality baseball parodies you've ever laid eyes on! These limited production, randomly inserted subsets are hilarious and have vivid U-V coated colors with a fantastic array of exciting special effects on each card – a collector's must!

CARDTOONS is **the** card issue you won't want to miss! (All cases serially numbered) Just look for them wherever your favorite trading cards are sold! **Order yours NOW! JUNE DELIVERY!**

Fans, reserve yours from your retailer today!

Retailers, order CARDTOONS through your distributor.

*CARDTOONS Baseball is a parody and is **not** licensed by Major League Baseball Properties or Major League Baseball Players Association.*

Hell Volume One appeared. It's likely that there will be many new fans seeking this one out. *(Tundra/Kitchen Sink, $4.95)*

GRENDEL WAR CHILD 10

This is Matt Wagner's second Hot Pick this month—and that's great news for Wagner fans, who must wait far too long between Wagner-illustrated books. While Wagner has written the entire ***Grendel War Child*** storyline, the fact that this extra-length finale is also illustrated by Wagner is going to make this book a scorcher. *(Dark Horse, $3.50)*

HARDCASE 1
PRIME 1
STRANGERS 1

Over a year in the making, Malibu's Ultraverse debuts this month with a trio of comics that should have a strong appeal to Valiant fans. Malibu has put together some of the best writers in the industry today, including James Hudnall, Gerard Jones, Len Strazewski, and Steve Englehart, who are responsible for these three debut books; the emphasis here is on strong stories as well as powerful artwork.

Hardcase, by Hudnall and hot new art talent Jim Callahan, is the story a superhero turned action movie star after a superhero accident results in the destruction of his old super-team. Movie star must once again turn superhero in order to stop a psychopath—if he can...

Prime is the ultimate superhero: he's superfast, nearly invulnerable, super-strong, and seemingly fearless. Everyone loves him—but no one knows that he's really a thirteen year old boy. ***Big*** gets super-powers in this new series by Jones, Strazewski, and hot Batman artist Norm Breyfogle.

The Strangers didn't intend to be superheroes at all; they were just taking a cable car to work. A freak occurrence floods the car with an eerie energy that transforms those who survive into superheroes. Six of the strangers join forces to find out the truth behind their origins—no matter what the cost—in this new series by Steve Englehart and Rick Hoberg.

Malibu is doing everything possible to make sure that fans don't miss out on this major new universe premiere. These Ultraverse books will feature special mail-in coupons that will qualify fans for an ***Ultraverse #0***—and we know how popular that promotion has been with Valiant and Image fans! *(Ultraverse, $1.95@)*

JONAH HEX: TWO GUN MOJO 1

If you think this is just another Western title, then you don't know the Vertigo Imprint very well. ***Two-Gun Mojo*** combines brutal Western action with an eerie setting and a disturbing storyline reminiscent of the mood and tone of Clint Eastwood's ***The Beguiled***... but far more horrifying in its content. Jonah Hex enters a town in which the dead somehow forget to remain dead! Award-winning horror writer Joe R. Lansdale is joined by acclaimed artist Timothy Truman and inker Sam Glanzman to offer this disquieting tale. Is it just another Western? Yeah—if ***Swamp Thing*** is just another nature story... ***Two-Gun Mojo*** just may be the sleeper hot pick of the month, so don't miss out. (DC, $2.95)

JURASSIC PARK 1

Three major talents join forces to bring Steven

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DARK HORSE COMICS

JUNE 22, 1993

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While police turn a deaf ear to rumors of random attacks, the citizens of Arcadia live in fear. When *real* dogs go mad, they're put down. Maybe it's time we did the same for these mavericks.

-James Xavier Sinclair, columnist, ***Daily Arcadian***

BRIGADE
image
0
JULY
$1.95
$2.45 CANADA
MATSUDA
KIKO

CSN HOT PICKS

Spielberg's summer blockbuster to comics: the end result is a book with very strong universal appeal. You can expect to see non-fans elbowing their way through the comics fan crowd for a copy of this adaptation—particularly since it offers exclusive ***Jurassic Park*** trading cards available nowhere else. (Remember the tremendous appeal of Topps' Dracula adaptation last year?...) *(Topps, $2.95)*

PLASM ZERO TRADING CARD COMIC & BINDER

He's doing it again, folks!... Jim Shooter, one of the leading forces behind the success of Valiant, is starting his own comic book company, Defiant. While the first Defiant book won't debut until August, Defiant and The River Group (the company behind those mega-popular Elvis cards) have created one of the most unique collectibles in comics history. It's not exactly a comic and it's not exactly a card set; it's a combination of both. The 117-card ***Plasm*** series paves the way for the new ***Plasm*** comic book series; when you assemble the entire card series in the specially designed binder, you have a special origin comic book that introduces you to the Defiant Universe. Foil stamped rookie cards, embossed metallic cards, and autograph cards... all the extras are here. This unique collectible is likely to be one of the rarest first issues ever released. *(Defiant/River Group, $1.50/pack for cards, $15 for binder)*

SABRETOOTH 1

Sabretooth the hunter becomes Sabretooth the hunted in this exciting new four-issue limited series. A female assassin seeks vengeance against Sabretooth; as the excitement mounts, fans learn more about Sabretooth's origin. Of course, Wolverine is on hand, too, just in case Sabretooth needs a little help... *(Marvel, $2.95)*

SECRET WEAPONS 1

Now *this* is a Valiant super-team: X-O, Bloodshot, Solar, Shadowman, the Eternal Warrior, and other heroes join forces to battle Dr. Eclipse, Master Darque's evil champion. Of course, it doesn't matter who they're fighting, just so long as it gets all these heroes together in a single book. ***Secret Weapons*** has been in the works since Unity, and this summer it's finally busting loose; look for this to be the most popular new Valiant title of '93. Valiant is declining to use special cover enhancements, gimmick or promotions; they're going to prove that this book is sure to be a hit all on its own. *(Valiant, $2.25)*

OVERLOOKED

Innovation's ***Lost In Space*** series succeeded in a way that few other licensed properties have: it remained loyal to the premise of the television series that inspired it while at the same time pushing the concept in a bold direction that proved tremendously appealing to fans. The new series, ***Lost In Space: Arrival,*** has the courage to do what television never would—take the Robinsons to their goal, Alpha Centauri, and continue the story from there. Writer Bill Mumy isn't just rehashing the same Gilligan's-Island-In-Space concepts that the television series was reduced to in its final episodes; instead, he's offering fans a chance to see where the series might have gone if its producers had been willing to see things through to their logical conclusions. If you ever enjoyed an episode of ***Lost In Space,*** then ***Lost In Space: Arrival*** is a series that you can appreciate. *(Innovation, $2.95/$4.95 deluxe edition)*

SIZZLER!

SHADOWHAWK II: THE SECRET REVEALED 2

Most creators would hold off revealing a major secret for as long as possible; Jim Valentino refuses to be like everyone else, though. Rather than stretch out the suspense for the full miniseries, this second issue of ***Shadowhawk II*** reveals the true identity of the vigilante hero. Every ***Shadowhawk*** fan is going to want to see the face behind the mask, so this book is going to have a very short shelf-life (think of the silver foil embossing as lagniappe). *(Image, $1.95)*

UNION 1

Mark Texeira, fan-favorite illustrator of ***Ghost Rider*** & ***Wolverine*** fame, joins the Image force to illustrate this four-issue limited series written by Mike Heisler and co-created by Jim Lee. ***Union*** is a strange visitor from another planet whose powers are derived from the super-powerful Justice Stone; now he turns his moral sensibilities on Earth's corruption. Storm Watch guest stars in the first issue. *(Image, $1.95)*

X-FORCE 25

Magneto's on his way back—and so is Cable, who is featured on this X-Men 30th Anniversary Issue's hologram cover. An anniversary celebration, an extra-length issue, a reuniting of X-Force and Cable, the return of a popular villain, a stunning hologram cover... how many ways can you spell hot? *(Marvel, $3.50)*

Last Week *CSN* **featured the complete June Checklist. If you're still hauling around some giant catalog just to know what's due it isn't our fault!**

Next Week *CSN* **will feature the low-down on the Malibu Ultraverse and your chance to win a Hard Case ashcan edition, be here!**

COMIC SHOP NEWS

Make A Week, And You Make A Lot!

Have you seen anything in this issue of ***Comic Shop News*** that you can't live without? Make sure you don't miss it; clip this handy coupon and write down the things that you want your comics shop owner to be sure to get for you!

Name_____Phone _____

I gotta have 'em! Please reserve for me the following items mentioned in ***Comic Shop News!***

_____

_____

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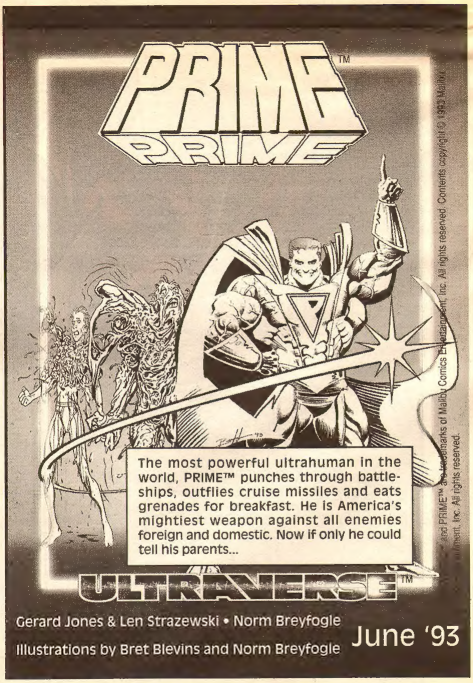
Be sure to give this to your retailer. Do not send it to ***CSN!*** Your comics shop will make every effort to get the items you want; some items may require a down payment before your shop owner can get them for you; be sure to ask!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Gerard Jones & Len Strazewski • Norm Breyfogle
Illustrations by Bret Blevins and Norm Breyfogle
June '93

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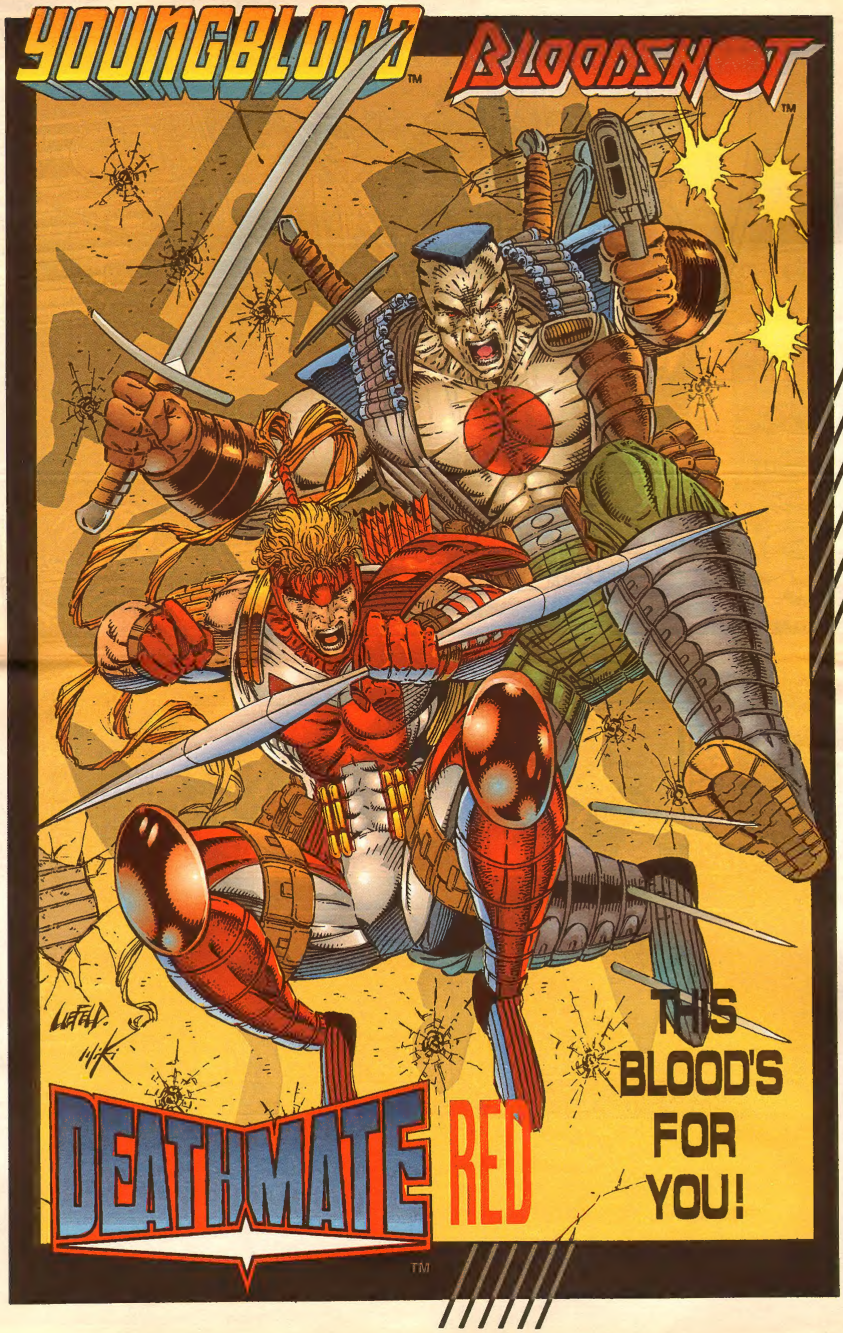
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MARVEL HOT PICKS

LETHAL FOES OF SPIDER-MAN #1!

Don't miss the long-awaited sequel to DEADLY FOES OF SPIDER-MAN!

Hyperkind™ & © 1993 Clive Barker

HYPERKIND #1!

The premiere title of Clive Barker's RAZORLINE imprint is introduced with a prismatic foil cover!

QUASAR #50!

Quivering Quantum Bands! QUASAR celebrates his 50th issue with a 48-page blockbuster enhanced with a gold holo-grafx foil cover!

GHOST RIDER #41!

Get ready for the the 6-part "Road to Vengeance!" Each issue of this spine-tingling crossover will feature a cover enhanced with neon ink!

WONDER MAN #25!

This 48-page 25th issue blow-out features a multi-level embossed cover, and the debut of Wondy's new costume!

SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #1!

This polybagged, 64-page superstar introduces Nocturne with an exclusive trading card!

MARVEL COMICS

MARVEL COMICS SHIPPING THE WEEK OF JULY 13TH

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